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# ELLIS'S

CATALOGUE 344

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1 THE ORIGINAL WARRANT  
DATED 25TH DAY OF JUNE 1650 AUTHORIZING  
*JOHN MILTON*  
TO SEARCH "THE STUDDY OR CHAMBER OF  
*WILLIAM PRYNNE*  
IN LINCOLN'S INNE OR ELSEWHERE

FOR ALL WRITEINGS LETTERS OR OTHER  
PAPERS OR RECORDS BELONGING TO THE  
COMMONWEALTH AND ALSOE FOR ALL  
WRITINGS, BY HIM WRITTEN...OF  
DANGEROUS NATURE AGAINST THE  
COMMONWEALTH."

Folio, measuring  $12\frac{3}{4}$  by  $8\frac{1}{4}$  inches, WRITTEN upon the official paper of the Council of State, bearing the embossed seal of the Arms of the Commonwealth IN THE SAME ORNATE, CLERKLY HAND IN WHICH ALL THE RECORDS OF THE YEAR 1650 ARE KEPT, AND WITH THE AUTOGRAPH SIGNATURE OF JOHN BRADSHAWE, THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

Price £575

This amazing document was discovered by Miss Dorothy Margaret Stuart the historian, and was the subject of a most illuminating article by her in the *New Statesman* of February 28th, 1931, in which will be found a fuller account of the matter than can be given here.

The text of the warrant is as follows:—

*These are to will and require you forthwith to make your repaire to the studdy and chamber of William Prynne Esquire in Lincolns Inne or*



*elsewhere, which you are dilligently to search for all writeings Letters or other papers or Records belonging to the Commonwealth. And alsoe for all writeings Letters, or papers by him written or in his custody, of dangerous nature against the Commonwealth, all which you are to seize and seale up, and bring or cause to be safely brought to this Counsell that thereupon further Order may be given concerning them. Of which you are not to fayle, and for which this shall be yor. sufficient Warrant. Given at the Council of State at Whitehall this 25th day of June, 1650.*

*Signed in ye Name and by Order of the Council of State appointed by Authority of Parlamt.*

*JO. BRADSHAWE, Prsidt.*

*TO JOHN MILTON, ESQR.*

*Secy to the Counsell for forreigne languages.*

The proceedings of the Council of State of this date which are preserved in the Record Office show that this search warrant was issued, but the name of the person to whom it was sent was omitted, the word "To" being followed by a blank. It is a matter of the greatest surprise and interest that Milton himself was charged to undertake the task.

On the same date, June 25th, 1650, the Council of State records show that a warrant for the arrest of William Prynne was addressed also to an unnamed recipient, who was required:—

*upon sight hereof to make your repaire to any place where you shall understand the person of William Prynne, Esqr. shall bee, and him, the said Mr. Prynne, you shall apprehend and shall secure him in Dunster Castle for his seditious writings and practices against the Commonwealth. His house is also to be searched for all writings, letters, papers or records that are agt. this Commonwealth or any way belonging to it.*



Miss Stuart queries "did Milton make his repair forthwith to Lincoln's Inn, and did he return while the Council were still in session in time for them to issue the warrant for Prynne's arrest before they rose?" Prynne was certainly arrested 5 days later (on the 30th of June) at his house in Swainswick near Bath, and promptly conveyed away about fifty miles and clapped without trial into Dunster Castle.

"To the author of *Histrio-Mastix*" as Miss Stuart tells us "there was nothing unfamiliar in the aspect of stone walls and iron bars. He had been a prisoner in the Fleet and the Tower, in the Castle of Mount Orgueil and in that Westminster tavern, picturesquely called 'Hell' which was used as a temporary place of detention for the victims of 'Pride's Purge'." After protesting against the execution of Charles I. he had entered upon a series of clandestine royalist activities of which the Council's spies inevitably became aware; but that Milton played a part in the episode of his arrest remained unknown and unsuspected until the discovery of this search warrant.

Milton in 1650 "had held for more than a year the post of Secretary for Foreign Languages to the Council of State. His clash with Prynne over the *Doctrine and Discipline of Divorce* had occurred six years earlier and four years had passed since in the original draft of his sonnet *On the Forcers of Conscience* he had made a rather brutal allusion to the mutilation which his Presbyterian critic had suffered during the Laudian terror. During that time his views had become—if possible—harder and narrower than before, and nothing had happened to soften his old contempt for that *upstarte scarecrow*, Prynne."

The circumstances of Prynne's imprisonment are still mysterious, for although he was kept a prisoner for nearly three years he was not put on trial, and was at length released despite his characteristic refusal to give security in the sum of £1000 that he would thenceforward do nothing against the Commonwealth. He never ceased to work in his own way for the restoration of the monarchy and, Charles II. rewarded him for his services by making him Keeper of the Records of the Tower.

Remembering the wording of our search warrant this selection of a Keeper of Records might have seemed a doubtful one, but Prynne showed himself well fitted for his new capacity, and by compiling those volumes familiarly known as *Prynne's Records* published between 1665-1670 made a substantial contribution to historical literature, which was for many years most prized by students and collectors.

Whilst then Prynne, at last basking in the sunshine of good fortune, brought forth his most useful work, Milton, afflicted by blindness and reduced almost to poverty, gave to the world in 1667 his *Paradise Lost*. In view of these, the ultimate achievements of Milton and Prynne, as well as the stormy writings of their earlier lives, CAN ONE IMAGINE A SEARCH WARRANT OF GREATER PIQUANCY THAN THE ONE NOW OFFERED FOR SALE.



- 2 **ABELARD.** Letters of Abelard and Eloisa, with a particular Account of their Lives, Amours and Misfortunes. By John Hughes. London, 1788. 8vo, with 6 plates engraved after Stothard and others, old calf gilt, with crest on back. £1 15s
- 3 **ACT** (An) for the Abolishing the Kingly Office in England, Ireland, and the Dominions thereunto belonging. London, printed for Edward Husband, Printer to the Honorable House of Commons, March 19, 1648. Broadside on 2 sheets, **Black Letter.** £3 3s
- 4 **ADAMUS** (Melchior), Vita Germanorum Theologorum qui Superiori seculo ecclesiam Christi voce scriptisque propagarunt et propugnarunt congestæ ad annum, usque 1618. Haidelbergæ, Impensis Jonæ Rosæ Librarij Francofurtensis, Excudebat Johannes Georgius Geyder, Anno 1620.—Decades Duæ continentes Vitas Theologorum Ex Terrorum Principum, qui ecclesiam Christi superiori seculo propagarunt et propugnarunt. Francofurti, Typis Nicolai Hoffmanni sumptibus Jonæ Rosæ, 1618. 8vo, calf, with ARMS in blind of HENRY WARE (XVII. Century), and his SIGNATURE on the front and back of the title-page. £3 3s
- 5 **ÆSCHYLUS.** Tragediæ sex, græce ex recognitione Andr. Turnebi. Parisiis, ex officina Adriani Turnebi, 1552. Sm. 8vo, ornamental capitals and headpieces, stained, old calf, with the ARMS of SIR PETER VENABLES, BARON DE KINDERTON (1603-69), in gold on the sides. £4 10s  
The SECOND EDITION of *Æschylus*, and the First edited by the learned printer Adrien Turnèbe. It was one of the first books printed by him after his appointment as Royal Printer.
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- 7 **ARISTOTLE.** La Phisica, tradotta di Greco in Volgare Italiano, per Antonio Bruccioli. Impresso in Venetia, 1551.—De Celo et Mondo, tradotto di Greco in Volgare Italiano. Per Antonio Bruccioli. *Ib.*, 1552.—Della Generatione e Corruzione. Tradotto del Greco in Volgare Italiano per Antonio Bruccioli. *Ib.*, 1552. 3 vols. in one, sm. 8vo, contemporary calf, with the ARMS of SIR W. PICKERING (1516-1575) in gold on the sides. £7 10s  
Sir William Pickering, to whom this volume belonged, was born in 1516 and educated at Cambridge, where he is mentioned as one of the eminent scholars who adopted Cheke's new method of pronouncing Greek. In 1551 he was appointed by Edward VI resident ambassador at the Court of France. On Queen Mary's accession he was recalled, but instead of returning home preferred to remain on the continent and travelled for a year in Italy and Germany. Doubtless he purchased this volume during this journey. Afterwards he was seriously thought of as a suitor for Queen Elizabeth's hand.
- 8 **ARMENIA.** (A Collection of material relative to the history and literature of the Armenians from Russian, French and other authorities. In Russian). Moscow, 1833-8. 3 vols., 4to, sewed. £1 5s  
Four leaves are wanting in the second volume (pp. 177-184).
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## SEE ILLUSTRATION.

Charles, second Earl and First Marquess Cornwallis, was born in 1738 and educated at Eton. Brought up as a soldier, he served with distinction in several campaigns, attaining a well-merited reputation. Being sent to America with reinforcements during the war against the insurgents he won the victory of Brandywine. After a brief period of leave he returned, but found that his superior officer, Clinton, had little grasp of the situation. Acting on Clinton's instructions and against his own judgement he established himself at Yorktown and was there bottled up by Washington and the French troops, and forced to capitulate.

Cornwallis lost no confidence on this account, however, and was pressed as early as 1782 to accept the Governor-Generalship of India. He was at last persuaded to accept in 1786, and the first letter in the series above announces his arrival in Madras to assume office. The correspondence is not an official one, but is a confidential passing of letters between Cornwallis and Dundas. It was the manner in which the former kept the latter AU FAIT with the situation in India.

Cornwallis had a definite object in view. It was to restore the military and civil services of India to an efficient state and to repair the bad effect produced by the defeats experienced in the second Mysore War. These tasks he accomplished, and, at the same time, cleared up the situation generally to such a degree that he left the way open for his successors to establish England's supremacy throughout the Indian peninsula.

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17 Sept<sup>r</sup> 1786.

7.

I shall probably send off a Packet in the beginning of November, by which time I hope to be able to enter into a complete detail of the business of this country. If I should die, make Sir Arch. Campbell Gov. Gen<sup>l</sup>; If you cannot have him don't make either Lord Macarthey or Macpherson. I am Dear Sir

Y<sup>r</sup> most sincerely

Cornwallis

I trust that you will  
look on this letter as private & confidential  
Sir Arch. Campbell was perfectly recovered when I  
left Madras



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mūdo vsq̄ ī fīez dilex̄ eos.

¶ Vēit at̄ dies azim̄. ī q̄ nāt̄ cāt̄ or- **Lucas**  
adi pasca. tñc̄ Disubuit a p̄y a m̄ eo

¶ Surgit a cena a pōit vestim̄ta sua **Johā<sup>8</sup>**  
a p̄cipit se. a cepit lauāe ped̄ d̄y tñc̄

¶ P̄ q̄ lotioez dixit. Sate qd̄ feret̄i vo-

¶ Postea h̄bat̄ iesu spū aut̄ sl̄ a d̄ dico  
vob̄ vnḡ q̄ vob̄ tradz me tñc̄ m̄m opa<sup>9</sup> c

¶ Desiderio desid̄avi hō pas̄ m̄aduic̄  
vobiscū a nq̄ patiari **Matth̄es**

¶ Accipit panē a b̄ndix̄ a ded̄ eis  
Silit̄ a calicē tñc̄

¶ Cū accepiss̄ iudas buccellā exiit̄  
tenuo. erat at̄ nōp **Johā<sup>8</sup>**

Iesu docuit eos de dilaoe p̄p̄. a dei

Ite ploabit̄ a flebit̄ mūdg at̄ gau-

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 sass quam zu yme der engel gotz Und  
 sprach Alles das du siest das salen schreib  
 in das buch des lebens vñ schreibe das  
 den syben kirchen die eyne heist phila  
 delphia die andere laodicia die dritte thia  
 tyna die vnde Sardis die vmyffte ephesus  
 die septe Smyrna die sybende pergamus  
 In den syben kirchen sal man eyne mueter  
 der heiliger kirchen verstan vñ bey den  
 syben engelen in den kirchen sal man verstan  
 die regirer der heiligen kirchen Und ersach  
 eyne der was gleich deme spen des myn  
 sthen vñ was geteudet mit siedem vñ was  
 vñ syne brust geteudet mit eyne gulden  
 snoete son heubt vñ harr das was schyne  
 de als wolte vñ so eyne als der spen syne  
 oingen waren gleich der blume des frum-  
 ferne von se woren gleich deme messinge  
 der da schynet auß vñ glöenden denen  
 vñ hatte in seyme hant syben sterne vñ  
 seyn aengesichte lichtet sam dy sonne wane  
 dy ist in me tigent vñ auß seynem  
 munde ginc ein steyn das was zu beu-  
 syden scharp vñ sprach en wil dich mit  
 forchten Ich bin der erste vñ der alre  
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*Eadem est huius ratio que superioris.*

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DISCANTVS.

Nox et tenebræ et nubila, Confusa mūdī & turbida, Lux

intrat, albescit polus, Christus uenit, discedite.

TENOR.

Nox et et tenebræ et nubila, Cōfusa mūdi et turbida, Lux

*intrat, abscit polus, Christus venit, die sce di te.*

# ALTVS.

Nox et tenebræ et nubila, Cõfus mundi & turbida,

*Lux irrāt, albescit polus, Christus uenit, discedite.*

BASSY S.

Nox & tenebræ & nubila, Confusa mundi & turbia

da, Lux intrat, albescit pelus, Christi9 uenit, discedite.

HVMNVS ANTE CIBVM.

ODE Monocolos metrum Alcanticum, Dactylicum  
trimetrum, hypercatalecticum, pentastrophon, Constans tri-  
bus dactylis & semipede, hoc est heptimenei heroica, hoc  
modo.

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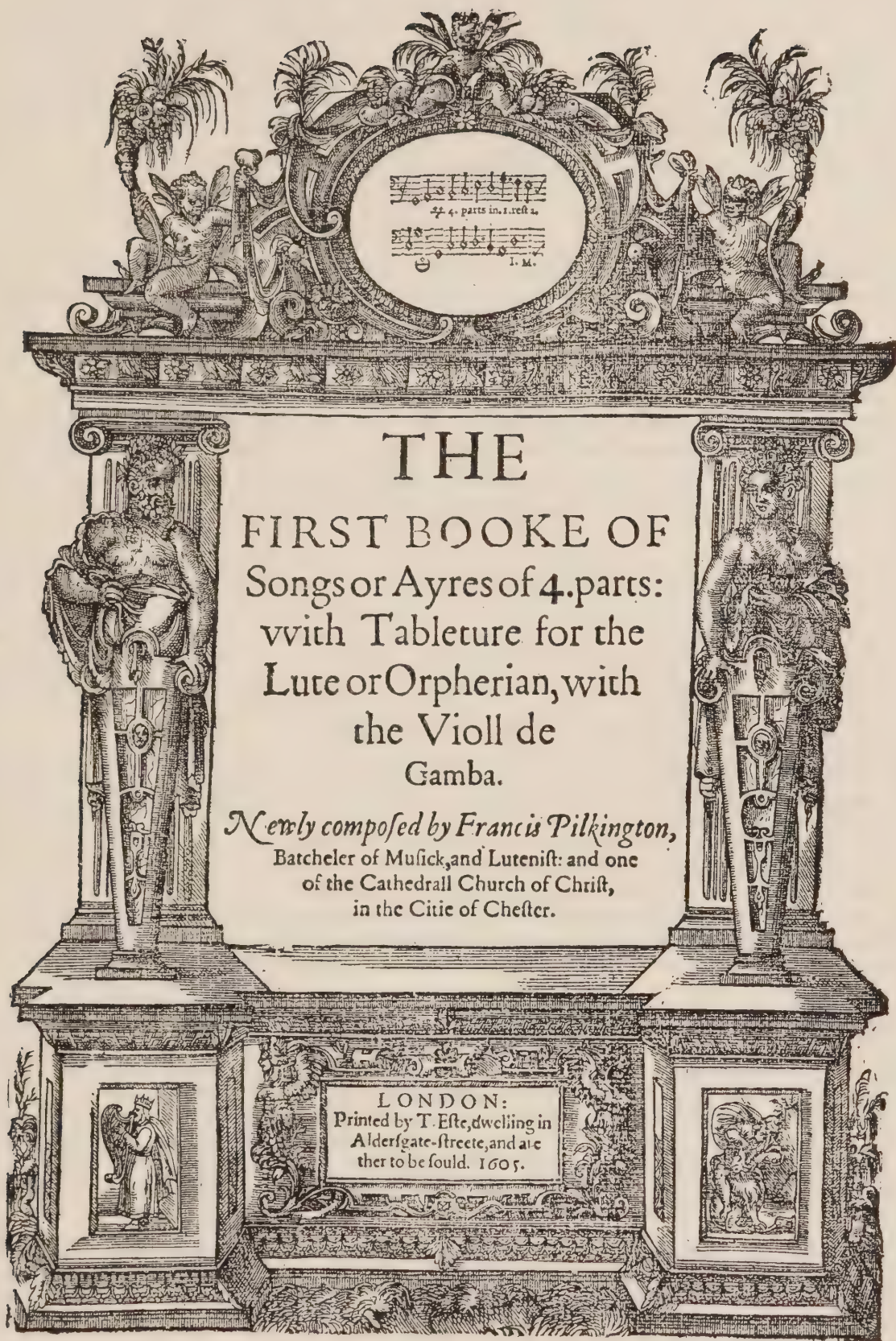


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## RECORDS BRANCH

In August 1937 Wiltshire, following the example set by many other counties, established an organization for the publication of the written records of its history. This organization has been officially constituted as the Records Branch of the County Archaeological Society. As all who are interested in the county will know, the parent Society does excellent work in promoting the study of prehistoric antiquities and architectural and other monuments in stone, but it has not the resources of itself to make accessible the great mass of *written* records of the county. These however, are of the highest importance and of most absorbing interest, and the object of the Records Branch will be to publish a selection of them in annual volumes, which, although they will be edited with scholarship and accuracy, will also be equipped with explanatory prefaces, notes and indexes so that everyone will find them intelligible.

The material which it is hoped to deal with is now lying in the Public Record Office, the national and other libraries and local repositories, or is in private hands. It is far too extensive to be described exactly here, but an exemplary list of future publications would comprise (i) *Feet of Fines*, recording one of the commonest methods in the past of assuring transfers of land; (ii) the rolls of medieval *Itinerant Justices*; (iii) Proceedings in the prerogative courts of *Star Chamber* and *Requests*; (iv) records of *Quarter Sessions*; (v) *Taxation Assessments* which at certain periods give lists of the principal inhabitants in the county; (vi) records of the services of officers and men in the Wiltshire Militia, Yeomanry and Volunteers; (vii) *Apprenticeship Books* which in effect constitute a guide to trades and traders in the county in the eighteenth century; (viii) ecclesiastical documents which include *Bishops' Registers*, *Chapter Act Books*, *Wills*, and *Monastic Cartularies*; (ix) estate records, such as *Manor Court Rolls* and *Ministers' Accounts*, which record transfers of holdings within the manor, statements of local customs and intimate details of farming arrangements. This list, of course, represents only a fragment of what needs to be done; yet even this would be of great service at once to historians of national and local affairs and to all who are interested in the study of family history, of personal or place names, of customs, law or language. The volumes would consequently be of permanent value to scholars and would also have a very human interest for all connected with the county.

Abstracts of *Feet of Fines* for the reigns of Edward I. and Edward II. has already been issued and the text of the roll of the Wiltshire justices in eyre for 1248-9 is in preparation.

The annual subscription for membership of the Branch is one guinea except for members of the parent Society who are only asked to pay 10s 6d. In return for his subscription every member will receive at least one volume of a limited edition each year.

All communications should be addressed to the Hon. Assistant of the Branch, Mr. A. H. Macdonald, Half-acre, Marlborough, Wilts.



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